

Executive Order 2007-13

To Spend Money from the Health Crisis Fund on Congenital Syphilis Education Campaign

WHEREAS, Arizona has had one of highest rates of congenital syphilis in the United States for the last four years and congenital syphilis causes significant morbidity and/or death in the affected infant; and

WHEREAS, detection and treatment of syphilis in pregnant women can prevent infection in the unborn child; and

WHEREAS, pregnant women with undiagnosed syphilis may experience stillbirth or birth of an infant with congenital abnormalities such as meningitis, brain damage, skeletal abnormalities, heart defects, and other organ abnormalities; and

WHEREAS, many women giving birth to infants with congenital syphilis during the previous four years did not receive adequate syphilis testing during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, education of healthcare providers regarding the need for syphilis testing at the first prenatal visit and during the third trimester will increase testing for syphilis in pregnancy and allow for treatment to prevent congenital syphilis; and

WHEREAS, education of pregnant women regarding the need for syphilis testing at the first prenatal visit and during the third trimester will increase test-seeking behavior and increase the detection rates of syphilis early in pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, implementing an education campaign targeting medical providers and women of childbearing age will increase the number of pregnant women in Arizona that are tested for syphilis during their pregnancy, thereby providing more opportunities for early treatment and prevention of congenital syphilis in newborns; and

WHEREAS, these circumstance are neither a contingency nor an emergency pursuant to A.R.S. § 35-192 because they require neither state-municipal resource coordination nor Department of Emergency and Military Affairs assistance;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Arizona Constitution and the laws of the State, declare a significant potential for a health crisis in the State, and hereby order as follows:

1. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 36-797, the sum of one-hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) shall be transferred from the Health Crisis Fund to the Department of Health Services to increase education and the availability of syphilis testing for pregnant women in Arizona.
2. The Department of Health Services shall expend all moneys transferred pursuant to this Order on measures to increase education and the availability of syphilis testing for pregnant women during the first prenatal visit and during the third trimester of pregnancy

and the Department shall report to the Legislature and the Governor by June 30, 2008 on the expenditure of all sums so transferred.




IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.


GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 29th day of June in the Year Two Thousand and Seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-First.

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE